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Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Kadra Ahmed **Hassan** (Djibouti)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled:

"Advancement of women:

"(a) Advancement of women;

"(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 9th to 13th, 15th, 22nd, 28th, 41st, 42nd, 44th, 46th and 48th meetings, from 10 to 13, on 18 and 21 October and on 3, 8, 15, 18 and 21 November 2011. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/66/SR.9-13, 15, 22, 28, 41, 42, 44, 46 and 48).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions (A/66/38);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/66/99);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/66/181);

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(d) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/66/211);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women migrant workers (A/66/212);

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (A/66/215);

(g) Letter dated 1 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Namibia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/66/87).

4. At the 9th meeting, on 10 October, the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships Bureau, UN-Women made an introductory statement and responded to a question raised and a comment made by the representative of Kenya (see A/C.3/66/SR.9).

5. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, made a statement and responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Algeria, Zambia, Australia, the United States of America, Liechtenstein, the Niger, the European Union, Cameroon, Benin and Sierra Leone (see A/C.3/66/SR.9).

6. Also at the 9th meeting, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made a statement and responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Costa Rica, Liechtenstein, the European Union, Algeria, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries) and Timor-Leste (see A/C.3/66/SR.9).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.3/66/L.18 and Rev.1

7. At the 28th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Argentina, Belarus, Guatemala, Indonesia, Honduras, Peru, and the Philippines, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Violence against women migrant workers" (A/C.3/66/L.18), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,

"*Reaffirming* the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development and their reviews,

"*Welcoming* the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and expressing hope that it will robustly support national efforts to end violence against women migrant workers, in the light of the focus of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011-2013 on increasing women's access to economic empowerment, including women migrant and domestic workers, as well as the policy and programmatic work of UN-Women on empowering women migrant workers worldwide and the commitment in the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session to implementing gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers, ensuring that all women, including care workers, are legally protected from violence and exploitation, providing safe and legal migration channels that recognize women migrant workers' skills and education, and fair labour conditions, and facilitating their productive employment and decent work and integration into the labour force,

"*Recalling* the discussions during the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 14 and 15 September 2006, which recognized, inter alia, the need for special protection for migrant women, and noting that another high-level dialogue on the same theme will be held in 2013,

"*Welcoming* the adoption of Convention No. 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers and Recommendation No. 201 on the same subject by the International Labour Conference on 16 June 2011, at its 100th session and general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers, adopted by the Committee on Migrant Workers in December 2010, and calling for the ratification of Convention No. 189 of the International Labour Organization and its implementation, and the implementation of general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers and of general recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in November 2008, acknowledging that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

"*Recognizing* the increasing participation of women in international migration, driven in large part by socio-economic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

"*Stressing* the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, and in that regard recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels, especially targeted measures to specifically address discrimination and violence against women migrant workers,

"*Recognizing* that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development, through the economic and social benefits accruing as a result of their work to countries of origin and destination, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers,

"*Recognizing also* the particular vulnerability of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment, and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to and reintegration in their countries of origin,

"*Expressing deep concern* at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence, trafficking, domestic and family violence, racist and xenophobic acts, abusive labour practices and exploitative conditions of work,

"*Recognizing* that the intersection of, inter alia, gender, age, class and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers, and that violence is a form of discrimination,

"*Reaffirming* the commitment to protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, rural women and indigenous women who migrate for work, and in that regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

"*Concerned* that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in that regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent abuse and exploitation, and observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and in which, at the same time, they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection,

"*Emphasizing* the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, and gender-sensitive indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of targeted policies and concrete strategies to specifically address discrimination, in particular violence against women migrant workers,

"*Realizing* that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, inter alia, the Internet, and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

"*Recognizing* the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

"*Encouraged* by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction and to promote access to justice, such as the establishment of gender-sensitive protection mechanisms for migrant workers, facilitating their access to reporting mechanisms or providing assistance during legal proceedings,

"*Underlining* the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and the relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as all human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers, and to implement the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

"3. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, entitled 'Political economy of women's human rights', submitted to the Council at its eleventh session, in particular her elaboration in that report of the current issues of the exploitation and violence that women migrants face in the context of the current global economic trends and crises;

"4. *Encourages* all United Nations special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of the current challenges facing women migrant workers, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the special rapporteurs in this regard;

"5. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights, gender-sensitive and human-development-oriented perspective in legislation, policies and programmes on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, exploitation and abuse, and to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce any form of discrimination, including by conducting impact assessment studies of such legislation, policies and programmes and reporting on the impact of measures taken and the results achieved in regard to women migrant workers;

"6. *Also calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status, including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration, inter alia in order to deter illegal migration, to incorporate a gender perspective in immigration laws in order to prevent discrimination and

violence against women, in particular in regard to independent migration and circular and temporary migration, and to permit women migrant workers who are victims of violence to apply for residency permits independently of abusive employers or spouses;

"7. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts to reduce the vulnerability of women migrant workers, including by fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin, by facilitating effective access to justice, and effective action in the areas of law enforcement and prosecution, prevention, capacity-building, victim protection and support, and by exchanging information and good practices in combating violence and discrimination against women migrant workers;

"8. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child by adopting or strengthening measures to promote and protect the human rights of migrant girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their immigration status, so as to prevent labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, including in domestic work;

"9. *Further urges* Governments, in cooperation with all stakeholders, especially the private sector, including employment agencies involved in recruiting women migrant workers, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, the overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

"10. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including by reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, in conformity with applicable legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

"11. *Calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status, to have access to health care, including emergency health care, and in that regard to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth and, in accordance with national legislation, to address the vulnerabilities to HIV experienced by migrant populations and support their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

"12. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant domestic workers, to include therein robust monitoring and inspection mechanisms, in line with relevant International Labour Organization conventions and other instruments, to ensure compliance with international obligations, and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to gender-sensitive, transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against employers, while stressing that such instruments should not punish women migrant workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations of their rights;

"13. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence with the full range of immediate assistance, protection and gender-sensitive services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate to which they are entitled in accordance with human rights standards, irrespective of their immigration status, such as access to counselling, legal and consular assistance and temporary shelter, as well as mechanisms to allow the views and concerns of victims to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, to the extent possible, as well as to establish and expand comprehensive reintegration and rehabilitation schemes for returning women migrant workers and their families;

"14. *Also calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively, as well as to ensure that migrant women victims of violence do not suffer from revictimization, including by authorities, by implementing measures that include allowing women migrant workers with legal claims concerning violations of their rights the option of remaining in the country of destination to pursue their claims;

"15. *Urges* all States to adopt effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

"16. *Encourages* Governments to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcers, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, prosecutors and service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public-sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions;

"17. *Also encourages* Governments to ensure coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking legislation, policies and programmes, based on a human rights, gender-sensitive and human-development-oriented perspective, to promote safe and legal migration, to ensure that the human rights of women migrant workers are protected throughout the migration

process and to prevent violence, prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims and their families;

"18. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, to ensure that, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, the competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality, and in this regard to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

"19. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-sensitive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment and to continue to support national efforts to address violence against women migrant workers in a coordinated way that ensures effective implementation, enhances their impact and strengthens positive outcomes for women migrant workers;

"20. *Encourages* Governments to formulate policies that: are based on up-to-date, relevant sex-disaggregated data and analysis and the institutionalized engagement of women migrant workers throughout the policy process; are adequately resourced; have measurable targets and indicators, timetables, monitoring and accountability measures, in particular for employment agencies, employers and public officials; provide for impact assessments and ensure multi-sector coordination within and between countries of origin, transit and destination through appropriate mechanisms;

"21. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and UN-Women, to develop and enhance appropriate sex disaggregated national data-collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that will generate comparable data and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process, and to further study the costs of violence against women, including migrant workers, to the women themselves, their families and their communities;

"22. *Further encourages* Governments to utilize the same data and tracking and reporting systems to analyse the opportunities available to women migrant workers and their contributions to development, and support the improvement of macro data on remittances, for appropriate policy formulation and implementation;

"23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive, analytical and thematic report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, specifically with regard to access to

justice for women migrant workers, highlighting the impact of legislation, policies and programmes on women migrant workers and taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs that refer to the situation of women migrant workers and other relevant sources, such as the International Organization for Migration, including non-governmental organizations."

8. At its 48th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Violence against women migrant workers" (A/C.3/66/L.18/Rev.1), submitted by Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Brazil, Chile, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Seychelles, Timor-Leste, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Grenada, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.18/Rev.1 (see para. 26, resolution I).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.3/66/L.19 and Rev.1

10. At the 22nd meeting, on 18 October, the representative of Mongolia, on behalf of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Guatemala, Haiti, Madagascar, Mongolia, the Niger and Peru, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas" (A/C.3/66/L.19), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 56/129 of 19 December 2001, 58/146 of 22 December 2003, 60/138 of 16 December 2005, 62/136 of 18 December 2007 and 64/140 of 18 December 2009,

"*Welcoming* the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to consider empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges as its priority theme at its fifty-sixth session, in 2012,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women, including indigenous women, in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

"(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and their full participation in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist, based on internationally agreed development goals including the Millennium Development Goals;

"(b) Pursuing the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, and support for women's organizations, labour unions or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

"(c) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women, including indigenous women and women with disabilities, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of gender equality and rural development programmes and strategies;

"(d) Ensuring that perspectives of rural women are taken into account and that they participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against rural women in this regard;

"(e) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation, follow up and evaluation of development policies and programmes, including budget policies, paying increased attention to the needs of rural women so as to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

"(f) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, and health and social support measures, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services;

"(g) Strengthening measures, including resource generation to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health through addressing the specific health needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of health for women in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including in such areas of sexual and reproductive health as prenatal and post-natal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning information and increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;

"(h) Designing and implementing national policies that promote and protect the enjoyment by rural women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence;

"(i) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection/social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources, and empowerment of older women through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on support to older women including indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are more vulnerable;

"(j) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, inter alia, through their participation in decision-making processes;

"(k) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas, in particular female-headed households, for their economic empowerment;

"(l) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

"(m) Integrating increased employment opportunities for rural women into all international and national development strategies and poverty eradication strategies, including by expanding non-agricultural employment opportunities, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

"(n) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are recognized, and supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment of rural women, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

"(o) Promoting programmes to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share, equally with women, household and childcare responsibilities;

"(p) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in indigenous and local communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies;

"(q) Addressing the lack of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

"(r) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information;

"(s) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system that considers the specific needs of rural women in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them;

"(t) Developing the capacity of personnel working in the areas of national development strategies, rural development, agricultural development, poverty eradication and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to identify and address the challenges and constraints facing rural women, including through training programmes and the development and dissemination of methodologies and tools, while acknowledging technical assistance of relevant United Nations agencies;

"3. *Strongly encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to take measures to identify and address any negative impact of the current global crises on women in rural areas, including on legislation, policies and programmes that strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women;

"4. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;

"5. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full participation in the area of information and communication technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies;

"6. *Calls upon* Member States to take into consideration the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning their reports to the Committee when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

"7. *Invites* Governments to undertake participatory needs and impact assessments for the economic empowerment of rural women, to adopt, on the basis of such assessments, gender-responsive rural development strategies and budget frameworks, and to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are addressed systematically, that they can effectively contribute to

poverty and hunger eradication and that appropriate budgets are allocated for the implementation of such strategies and for the delivery of local services;

"8. *Encourages* Governments and international organizations to integrate the perspective of rural and indigenous women into the preparations for and outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 4 to 6 June 2012, with a view to accelerating progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in rural areas;

"9. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed in its resolution 62/136;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

11. At the 44th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas" (A/C.3/66/L.19/Rev.1) submitted by Argentina, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, China, Costa Rica, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Israel, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, the Niger, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey and the United States of America. Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Ecuador, Finland, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, Malaysia, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Portugal, Serbia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.19/Rev.1 (see para. 26, resolution II).

C. Draft resolutions A/C.3/66/L.20 and Rev.1

13. At the 28th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Norway, Palau, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Women and political participation" (A/C.3/66/L.20), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, and guided by the purposes and principles of human rights instruments,

"*Reaffirming also* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the right to take part in the Government of his or her country directly or through freely chosen representatives, and the right of equal access to public service,

"*Guided* by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which affirms human rights and fundamental freedoms and equality for women around the world,

"*Reaffirming* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century',

"*Recognizing* the important contributions that women have made towards the achievement of representative, transparent and accountable Governments in many countries,

"*Stressing* the critical importance of women's political participation in all contexts, including in times of peace and conflict and in all stages of political transition, concerned that many obstacles still prevent women from participating in political life on equal terms with men, and noting in that regard that situations of political transition provide a unique opportunity to address such obstacles,

"*Recognizing* the essential contributions that women around the world continue to make to the achievement and maintenance of international peace and security and to the full realization of human rights; to the promotion of sustainable development and economic growth; and to the eradication of poverty, hunger and disease,

"*Reaffirming* that the active participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of equality, sustainable development, peace and democracy,

"*Highly concerned* that women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and cultural stereotypes, and owing to poverty disproportionately affecting women,

"*Recognizing* the importance of empowering all women through education and training in Government, public policy, economics, civics, information technology and science to ensure that they develop the knowledge and skills needed to make full contributions to society and the political process,

"*Reaffirming* the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding and the need for Member States and the United Nations system to increase the role of women in decision-

making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and the rebuilding of post-conflict societies, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

"*Recognizing* the central role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in leading, coordinating and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women within the United Nations system and worldwide,

"*Noting with appreciation* the establishment by the Human Rights Council of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice,

"1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 58/142 of 22 December 2003 on women and political participation and calls upon all States to implement it fully;

"2. *Calls upon* all States to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that, in a discriminatory manner, prevent or restrict women's participation in the political process;

"3. *Also calls upon* all States, including in situations of political transition, to promote and protect the human rights of women with respect to:

"(a) Engaging in political activities;

"(b) Taking part in the conduct of public affairs;

"(c) Associating freely;

"(d) Assembling peacefully;

"(e) Expressing their views freely, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, through any media of their choice;

"(f) Voting in elections and public referendums and being eligible for election to publicly elected bodies on equal terms with men;

"(g) Participating in the formulation of Government policy and the implementation thereof, holding public office, and performing public functions at all levels of Government;

"4. *Calls upon* States in situations of political transition to take effective steps to ensure the participation of women on equal terms with men in all phases of political transition, including with respect to decisions on whether to call for change in existing institutions, decisions regarding transitional Governments, the formulation of Government policy and the means of electing new democratic Governments;

"5. *Urges* all States to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and also urges States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so;

"6. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to review their reservations lodged to the Convention regularly with a view of withdrawing them;

"7. *Urges* all States to take, inter alia, the following actions to ensure women's equal participation, and encourages the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, in accordance with their existing mandates, to enhance their assistance to States in their efforts to:

"(a) Review the differential impact of their electoral systems on the political participation of women and their representation in elected bodies and to adjust or reform those systems where appropriate;

"(b) Take all appropriate measures to eliminate prejudices that are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women and that constitute a barrier to women's access to and participation in the political sphere, and to adopt inclusive approaches to their political participation;

"(c) Strongly encourage political parties to remove all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against the participation of women, to develop their capacity to analyse issues from a gender perspective and to adopt policies, as appropriate, to promote the ability of women to participate fully at all levels of decision-making within those political parties;

"(d) Promote recognition of the importance of women's participation in the political process at the community, local, national and international levels;

"(e) Develop mechanisms and training to encourage women to participate in the electoral process, political activities and other leadership activities, and empower women to assume public responsibilities by developing and providing appropriate tools and skills, in consultation with women;

"(f) Implement appropriate measures within governmental bodies and public sector institutions to eliminate direct or indirect barriers to and enhance women's participation in all levels of political decision-making;

"(g) Accelerate the implementation of strategies, as appropriate, that promote gender balance in political decision-making;

"(h) Improve and broaden women's access to information and communication technology, including e-government tools, in order to enable political participation and promote engagement in broader democratic processes, while also improving the gender responsiveness of these tools and promoting their use by marginalized women;

"(i) Investigate allegations of violence, assault or harassment of women elected officials and candidates to political office, create an environment of zero tolerance for such offences and ensure accountability, and take all appropriate steps to prosecute those responsible;

"(j) Ensure that measures to reconcile family and professional life apply equally to women and men, bearing in mind that the sharing of family responsibilities between women and men helps to create an enabling environment for women's political participation;

"(k) Take proactive measures to address factors preventing or hindering women from participating in politics, such as violence, poverty, lack of access to quality education and health care, cultural stereotypes and the double burden of paid and unpaid work;

"(l) Monitor and evaluate progress in the representation of women in decision-making positions;

"8. *Encourages* States to implement fully and effectively Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and subsequent relevant resolutions, including by systematic attention to, recognition of and support for the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict and in peacebuilding efforts;

"9. *Also encourages* States to appoint women to posts within all levels of their Governments, including bodies responsible for designing constitutional, electoral, political or institutional reforms;

"10. *Further encourages* States to commit themselves to establishing the goal of gender balance in governmental bodies and committees, as well as in public administrative entities, and in the judiciary, including, inter alia and as appropriate, setting specific targets and implementing measures to substantially increase the number of women with a view to achieving equal representation of women and men, if necessary through positive action, in all governmental and public administration positions;

"11. *Encourages* States and relevant civil society organizations to support programmes that facilitate the participation of women in democratic political activities, including peer support and capacity development for new office holders, and to promote public/private civil society partnerships for women's empowerment;

"12. *Invites* States to exchange experience and best practices throughout the United Nations system on women's political participation, including on the participation of women in times of political transition;

"13. *Invites* the Human Rights Council Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice to continue to include in its work a focus on the political participation of women in times of political transition;

"14. *Encourages* States to disseminate the present resolution among all relevant institutions, in particular national, regional and local authorities, as well as among political parties;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including information on the political participation of women in times of political transition, and encourages Governments to cooperate with the Secretary-General by providing precise data on the political participation of women at all levels."

14. At its 46th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Women and political participation" (A/C.3/66/L.20/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.20 and Algeria, Argentina,

Belize, Egypt, Morocco, the Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino and Thailand. Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Suriname, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

15. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement and orally revised the text as follows:

(a) At the end of the fifth preambular paragraph, the words "supporting countries' efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide" were replaced by the words "supporting all countries' efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women";

(b) At the end of the seventh preambular paragraph, the word "may" was inserted before the word "provide";

(c) In the eighth preambular paragraph, the word "all" was inserted before the words "human rights";

(d) In the tenth preambular paragraph, the words "and cultural" were deleted before the words "and gender stereotypes";

(e) At the end of the twelfth preambular paragraph, the phrase "1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 and other relevant United Nations resolutions" was replaced by "and its subsequent follow-up resolutions, as well as other relevant United Nations resolutions";

(f) At the end of operative paragraph 6, the words "in accordance with their existing mandates" were replaced by the words "within their existing mandates," and the word "national" was inserted before the word "efforts";

(g) In operative paragraph 10, the words "democratic political activities" were replaced by the words "political and other leadership activities";

(h) Operative paragraph 11, which read:

> "11. *Invites* States to exchange experience and best practices throughout the United Nations system on women's political participation, including on the participation of women in times of political transition",

was replaced by:

> "11. *Invites* States to exchange experience and best practices on women's political participation in all phases of the political process, including in times of political change and reform";

(i) In operative paragraph 12, the words "inter alia," were added after the word "focus".

16. Also at the 46th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Liberia and Maldives (see A/C.3/66/SR.46).

17. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.20/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 26, draft resolution III).

18. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Cuba, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Pakistan, Nicaragua and the Russian Federation (see A/C.3/66/SR.46).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.21

19. At the 28th meeting, on 21 October, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" (A/C.3/66/L.21). Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Colombia, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, the Niger, the Philippines, Rwanda, San Marino, South Africa, Suriname, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

20. At its 41st meeting, on 3 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.21 (see para. 26, resolution IV).

21. After the adoption of the resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.3/66/SR.41).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.59

22. At its 42nd meeting, on 8 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/66/L.59), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations.

23. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chair, Ms. Donette Critchlow (Guyana), made a statement (see A/C.3/66/SR.42).

24. Also at its 42nd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/66/L.59 (see para. 26, resolution V).

F. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

25. At its 48th meeting, on 21 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of a report (A/66/215) considered in connection with the advancement of women (see para. 27).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

26. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all of its previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers and those adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[1]

Reaffirming the provisions concerning women migrant workers contained in the outcome documents of the World Conference on Human Rights,[2] the International Conference on Population and Development,[3] the Fourth World Conference on Women[4] and the World Summit for Social Development[5] and their reviews,

Welcoming the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and expressing hope that it will robustly support national efforts to increase women's access to economic opportunities, especially for those who are most excluded, including women migrant workers, and to end violence against women migrant workers, in the light of the UN-Women strategic plan, 2011-2013,[6] which has among its six goals, increasing women's access to economic opportunities, and preventing violence against women and girls and expanding access to survivor services, and the policy and programmatic work of UN-Women on empowering women migrant workers,

Welcoming also the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women during its fifty-fifth session,[7] and taking note of, in particular, the commitment, as appropriate, to implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers, to ensure that all women, including care workers, are legally protected against violence and exploitation, to provide safe and legal channels that recognize women migrant workers' skills and education and fair labour conditions, and to facilitate their productive employment and decent work and integration into the labour force,

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[1] See resolution 48/104.

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[6] UNW/2011/9.

[7] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

Recalling the discussions during the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 14 and 15 September 2006, which recognized, inter alia, the need for special protection for migrant women, and noting that another high-level dialogue on the same theme will be held in 2013,

Welcoming the adoption of Convention No. 189 and Recommendation No. 201 on decent work for domestic workers by the International Labour Conference on 16 June 2011, at its 100th session, noting the importance of the early entry into force of Convention No. 189 and encouraging States to consider ratifying it, encouraging States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[8] to note and consider general recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers, adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in November 2008,[9] and encouraging States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families[10] to take note of and consider general comment No. 1 on migrant domestic workers, adopted by the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in December 2010,[11] acknowledging that they are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing the increasing participation of women in international migration, driven in large part by socio-economic factors, and that this feminization of migration requires greater gender sensitivity in all policies and efforts related to the subject of international migration,

Stressing the shared responsibility of all stakeholders, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society, in promoting an environment that prevents and addresses violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination, through targeted measures, and in this regard recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches and strategies at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels,

Recognizing that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development, through the economic and social impacts, as a result of their work, on countries of origin and destination, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers,

Recognizing also the particular vulnerability of women and their children at all stages of the migration process, extending from the moment of deciding to migrate, and including transit, engagement in formal and informal employment, and integration into the host society, as well as during their return to and reintegration in their countries of origin,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, in particular sexual violence, domestic and family violence, racist and xenophobic acts, abusive labour practices, exploitative conditions of work, and

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/64/38), annex I.

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

[11] CMW/C/GC/1.

contemporary forms of slavery, including all forms of forced labour, and trafficking in persons,

Recognizing that the intersection of, inter alia, gender, age, class and ethnic discrimination and stereotypes can compound the discrimination faced by women migrant workers, and that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination,

Reaffirming the commitment to protect and promote the human rights of all women, including, without discrimination, indigenous women who migrate for work, and in this regard noting the attention paid in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[12] to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against indigenous women, as appropriate,

Noting that the priority theme of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women will be the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges,[13] and in this regard recognizing the role and contribution of rural women migrant workers towards poverty eradication and development in their communities,

Concerned that many migrant women who are employed in the informal economy and in less skilled work are especially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation, underlining in this regard the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants so as to prevent and address abuse and exploitation, and observing with concern that many women migrant workers take on jobs for which they may be overqualified and in which, at the same time, they may be more vulnerable because of poor pay and inadequate social protection,

Emphasizing the need for objective, comprehensive and broad-based information, including sex- and age-disaggregated data and statistics, and gender-sensitive indicators for research and analysis, and a wide exchange of experience and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of targeted policies and concrete strategies to specifically address violence against women migrant workers, including in the context of discrimination,

Realizing that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible by means of fraudulent or irregular documentation and sham marriages with the object of migration, that this may be facilitated through, inter alia, the Internet and that those women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

Recognizing the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing in their areas of jurisdiction and to promote access to justice, such as the establishment of gender-sensitive protection mechanisms for migrant workers, facilitating their access to mechanisms for reporting complaints or providing assistance during legal proceedings,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions, and the relevant

[12] Resolution 61/295, annex.

[13] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15.

special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their human rights and welfare,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[14]

2. *Encourages* Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to relevant International Labour Organization conventions and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[10] the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[15] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[16] the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[17] and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[18] as well as all other human rights treaties that contribute to the protection of the rights of women migrant workers, and also encourages Member States to implement the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;[19]

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, entitled "Political economy of women's human rights", submitted to the Council at its eleventh session,[20] in particular her elaboration in that report of the current issues of the exploitation and violence that women migrants face in the context of the current global economic trends and crises;

4. *Encourages* all United Nations special rapporteurs on human rights whose mandates touch on the issues of violence against women migrant workers to improve the collection of information on and analysis of those areas within their mandate relating to the current challenges facing women migrant workers, and also encourages Governments to cooperate with the special rapporteurs in this regard;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments to incorporate a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective in legislation, policies and programmes on international migration and on labour and employment, consistent with their human rights obligations and commitments under human rights instruments, for the prevention of and protection of migrant women against violence and discrimination, exploitation and abuse, and to take effective measures to ensure that such migration and labour policies do not reinforce discrimination, and, where necessary, to conduct impact assessment studies of such legislation, policies and programmes in order to identify the impact of measures taken and the results achieved in regard to women migrant workers;

6. *Also calls upon* Governments to adopt or strengthen measures to protect the human rights of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status,

[14] A/66/212.
[15] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[16] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.
[17] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.
[18] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.
[19] Resolution 64/293, annex.
[20] A/HRC/11/6.

including in policies that regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, and to consider expanding dialogue among States on devising innovative methods to promote legal channels of migration, inter alia in order to deter illegal migration, to consider incorporating a gender perspective into immigration laws in order to prevent discrimination and violence against women, including in independent, circular and temporary migration, and to consider permitting, in accordance with national legislation, women migrant workers who are victims of violence to apply for residency permits independently of abusive employers or spouses;

7. *Urges* Governments to enhance bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation to address violence against women migrant workers, fully respecting international law, including international human rights law, as well as to strengthen efforts to reduce the vulnerability of women migrant workers, by facilitating effective access to justice and effective action in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, capacity-building, victim protection and support, by exchanging information and good practices in combating violence and discrimination against women migrant workers and by fostering sustainable development alternatives to migration in countries of origin;

8. *Also urges* Governments to take into account the best interests of the child, by adopting or strengthening measures to promote and protect the human rights of migrant girls, including unaccompanied girls, regardless of their immigration status, so as to prevent labour and economic exploitation, discrimination, sexual harassment, violence and sexual abuse in the workplace, including in domestic work;

9. *Further urges* Governments to strongly encourage all stakeholders, especially the private sector, including employment agencies involved in recruiting women migrant workers, to strengthen the focus on and funding support for the prevention of violence against women migrant workers, in particular by promoting the access of women to meaningful and gender-sensitive information and education on, inter alia, the costs and benefits of migration, rights and benefits to which they are entitled in the countries of origin and employment, overall conditions in countries of employment and procedures for legal migration, as well as to ensure that laws and policies governing recruiters, employers and intermediaries promote adherence to and respect for the human rights of migrant workers, particularly women;

10. *Encourages* all States to remove obstacles that may prevent the transparent, safe, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances of migrants to their countries of origin or to any other countries, including, where appropriate, by reducing transaction costs and implementing woman-friendly remittance transfer, savings, and investment schemes, including diaspora investment schemes, in conformity with applicable national legislation, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede women migrant workers' access to and management of their economic resources;

11. *Calls upon* Governments to recognize the right of women migrant workers, regardless of their immigration status, to have access to emergency health care, and in this regard to ensure that women migrant workers are not discriminated against on the grounds of pregnancy and childbirth and, in accordance with national legislation, to address the vulnerabilities to HIV experienced by migrant

populations, and support their access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support;

12. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to adopt and implement legislation and policies that protect all women migrant domestic workers, and to include therein and improve where necessary, relevant monitoring and inspection measures in line with applicable International Labour Organization conventions and other instruments, to ensure compliance with international obligations, and to grant women migrant workers in domestic service access to gender-sensitive, transparent mechanisms for bringing complaints against employers, while stressing that such instruments should not punish women migrant workers, and calls upon States to promptly investigate and punish all violations of their rights;

13. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders, to provide women migrant workers who are victims of violence, irrespective of their immigration status, in line with domestic legislation, with the full range of emergency assistance and protection and, to the extent possible, gender-sensitive services that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, in accordance with relevant international human rights instruments and applicable conventions;

14. *Also calls upon* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively and that allow their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, when possible, and to protect migrant women workers who are victims of violence from revictimization, including by authorities;

15. *Urges* all States to adopt effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups;

16. *Encourages* Governments to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcers, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, prosecutors and service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public-sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions;

17. *Also encourages* Governments to promote coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking policies and programmes concerning women migrant workers, based on a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective, to ensure that the human rights of women migrant workers are protected throughout the migration process, and to enhance efforts to prevent violence against women migrant workers, prosecute perpetrators and protect and support victims and their families;

18. *Calls upon* States, in accordance with the provisions of article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,[21] to ensure that, if a woman migrant worker is arrested or committed to prison or custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner, the competent authorities respect her freedom to communicate with and have access to the consular officials of the country of her nationality, and in this regard to inform without delay, if that woman migrant worker so requests, the consular post of her State of nationality;

19. *Invites* the United Nations system and other concerned intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with Governments, within existing resources, towards a better understanding of the issues concerning women and international migration, and to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of sex- and age-disaggregated data and information in order to assist in the formulation of migration and labour policies that are, inter alia, gender-sensitive and that protect human rights, as well as to aid in policy assessment and to continue to support national efforts to address violence against women migrant workers in a coordinated way that ensures effective implementation, enhances their impact and strengthens positive outcomes for women migrant workers;

20. *Encourages* Governments to formulate national policies concerning women migrant workers that are based on up-to-date, relevant sex-disaggregated data and analysis in close consultation with women migrant workers and relevant stakeholders throughout the policy process, and also encourages Governments to ensure that such process is adequately resourced and that the resulting policies have measurable targets and indicators, timetables, and monitoring and accountability measures, in particular for employment agencies, employers and public officials, and provide for impact assessments and ensure multi-sector coordination within and between countries of origin, transit and destination through appropriate mechanisms;

21. *Also encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, and UN-Women, to develop and enhance appropriate sex-disaggregated national data-collection, analysis and dissemination methodologies that will generate comparable data, and tracking and reporting systems on violence against women migrant workers and, wherever possible, violations of their rights at all stages of the migration process, and to:

(a) Further study the costs of violence against women, including migrant workers, to the women themselves, their families and their communities;

(b) Analyse the opportunities available to women migrant workers and their impact on development;

(c) Support the improvement of macrodata on remittances, for appropriate policy formulation and implementation;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide a comprehensive, analytical and thematic report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, specifically with regard to access to justice for women

[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

migrant workers, highlighting the impact of legislation, policies and programmes on women migrant workers, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as the reports of special rapporteurs that refer to the situation of women migrant workers and other relevant sources, such as the International Organization for Migration, including non-governmental organizations.

Draft resolution II
Improvement of the situation of women in rural areas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/129 of 19 December 2001, 58/146 of 22 December 2003, 60/138 of 16 December 2005, 62/136 of 18 December 2007 and 64/140 of 18 December 2009,

Welcoming the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to consider empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges as its priority theme at its fifty-sixth session, in 2012,

Recognizing that rural women are critical agents in poverty reduction, that they are crucial to the achievement of food and nutritional security in poor and vulnerable households and to environmental sustainability and that, in other ways, they are also critical to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals, and concerned that rural women continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged because of their limited access to economic resources and opportunities, their limited or lack of access to land, water and other resources, their limited or lack of access to credit, extension services and agricultural inputs, their exclusion from planning and decision-making and their disproportionate burden of unpaid care work,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the relevant United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women, including indigenous women, in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving the situation of rural women and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and their full participation in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, based on internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Pursuing the political and socio-economic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, and support for women's organizations, labour unions or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

(c) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women, including indigenous women and women with disabilities, through their

[1] A/66/181.

organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of gender equality and rural development programmes and strategies;

(d) Ensuring that perspectives of rural women are taken into account and that they participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against rural women in this regard;

(e) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies and programmes, including budget policies, paying increased attention to the needs of rural women so as to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(f) Strengthening measures, including resource generation, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 on improving maternal health by addressing the specific health needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of health for women in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including in such areas of sexual and reproductive health as prenatal and post-natal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning information and increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS;

(g) Promoting sustainable infrastructure, access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation and safe cooking and heating practices, to improve the health of rural women and children;

(h) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women, including needs relating to their food and nutritional security and that of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them as well as decent conditions for work and access to local, regional and global markets through improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, science and technology, local services, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, and health and social support measures, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care, including psychosocial aspects, and support services;

(i) Designing and implementing national policies that promote and protect the enjoyment by rural women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations or abuses of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence and all other forms of gender-based violence;

(j) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection/social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources, and empowerment of older women through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on support to older women, including

indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are more vulnerable;

(k) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, inter alia, through their participation in decision-making processes;

(l) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures, and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas, in particular female heads of households, for their economic empowerment;

(m) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

(n) Integrating increased employment opportunities for rural women into all international and national development strategies and poverty eradication strategies, including by, inter alia, expanding non-agricultural employment opportunities, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

(o) Investing in infrastructure and in time- and labour-saving technologies, especially in rural areas, benefiting women and girls by reducing their burden of domestic activities, affording the opportunity for girls to attend school and women to engage in self-employment or participate in the labour market;

(p) Taking steps towards ensuring that women's unpaid work and contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, including income generated in the informal sector, are recognized, and supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment of rural women, improving working conditions and increasing access to productive resources;

(q) Promoting programmes and services to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men to share, equally with women, household, childcare and other care responsibilities;

(r) Developing strategies to decrease women's vulnerability to environmental factors while promoting rural women's role in protecting the environment;

(s) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in indigenous and local communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies;

(t) Addressing the lack of timely, reliable and sex-disaggregated data, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

(u) Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices to collect, analyse and disseminate comparable sex-disaggregated data, including on time use, and gender statistics in rural areas to serve as a basis for gender-responsive policy design and strategy development in rural areas;

(v) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the equal right to inheritance, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, appropriate technologies and access to markets and information, and to ensure equal access to justice and legal support;

(w) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system that considers the specific needs of rural women in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them, including through community-based dialogue involving women and men, and girls and boys;

(x) Promoting education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media;

(y) Developing the capacity of personnel working in the areas of national development strategies, rural development, agricultural development, poverty eradication and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals to identify and address the challenges and constraints facing rural women, including through training programmes and the development and dissemination of methodologies and tools, while acknowledging technical assistance of relevant United Nations agencies;

3. *Strongly encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to take measures to identify and address any negative impact of the current global crises on women in rural areas, including on legislation, policies and programmes that strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women;

4. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;

5. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full participation in the area of information and communication technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies, taking appropriate educational measures to eliminate gender stereotypes regarding women in the field of technology;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to consider the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women concerning their reports to the Committee when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

7. *Invites* Governments to promote the economic empowerment of rural women, to adopt gender-responsive rural development strategies, including budget framework and relevant assessment measures, and to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are systematically addressed, and that they can effectively contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and food and nutritional security;

8. *Encourages* Governments and international organizations to integrate the perspective of women in rural areas, including indigenous women, into the preparations for and outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, with a view to accelerating progress on gender equality and women's empowerment in rural areas;

9. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations and the specialized agencies to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/136;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution III
Women and political participation

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the obligations of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, and guided by the purposes and principles of human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] which states that everyone has the right to take part in the Government of his or her country directly, or through freely chosen representatives, and the right of equal access to public service,

Guided by the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] which affirms human rights and fundamental freedoms and equality for women around the world, and which states, inter alia, that States parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[3] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

Recognizing the central role of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in leading and coordinating action to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women within the United Nations system, as well as in supporting all countries' efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Recognizing also the important contributions that women have made towards the achievement of representative, transparent and accountable Governments in many countries,

Stressing the critical importance of women's political participation in all contexts, including in times of peace and of conflict and at all stages of political transition, concerned that many obstacles still prevent women from participating in political life on equal terms with men, and noting in that regard that situations of political transition may provide a unique opportunity to address such obstacles,

Recognizing the essential contributions that women around the world continue to make to the achievement and maintenance of international peace and security and to the full realization of all human rights, to the promotion of sustainable development and economic growth, and to the eradication of poverty, hunger and disease,

Reaffirming that the active participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of equality, sustainable development, peace and democracy,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[4] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

Highly concerned that women in every part of the world continue to be largely marginalized from the political sphere, often as a result of discriminatory laws, practices, attitudes and gender stereotypes, low levels of education, lack of access to health care and the disproportionate effect of poverty on women,

Recognizing the importance of empowering all women through education and training in government, public policy, economics, civics, information technology and science to ensure that they develop the knowledge and skills needed to make full contributions to society and the political process,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding and the need for Member States and the United Nations system to increase the role of women in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and the rebuilding of post-conflict societies, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and its subsequent follow-up resolutions, as well as other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Noting with appreciation the establishment by the Human Rights Council of the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolution 58/142 of 22 December 2003 on women and political participation, and calls upon all States to implement it fully;

2. *Calls upon* all States to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that, in a discriminatory manner, prevent or restrict women's participation in the political process;

3. *Also calls upon* all States to enhance the political participation of women, accelerate the achievement of equality between men and women and, in all situations, including in situations of political transition, to promote and protect the human rights of women with respect to:

(a) Engaging in political activities;

(b) Taking part in the conduct of public affairs;

(c) Associating freely;

(d) Assembling peacefully;

(e) Expressing their opinions and seeking, receiving and imparting information and ideas freely;

(f) Voting in elections and public referendums and being eligible for election to publicly elected bodies on equal terms with men;

(g) Participating in the formulation of Government policy and the implementation thereof, holding public office and performing public functions at all levels of Government;

4. *Calls upon* States in situations of political transition to take effective steps to ensure the participation of women on equal terms with men in all phases of political reform, from decisions on whether to call for reforms in existing institutions to decisions regarding transitional Governments, to the formulation of Government policy, to the means of electing new democratic Governments;

5. *Urges* all States to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] urges States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so, and urges States parties to the Convention to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol thereto;

6. *Also urges* all States to take, inter alia, the following actions to ensure women's equal participation, and encourages the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their existing mandates, to enhance their assistance to States in their national efforts to:

(a) Review the differential impact of their electoral systems on the political participation of women and their representation in elected bodies and to adjust or reform those systems where appropriate;

(b) Take all appropriate measures to eliminate prejudices that are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women and that constitute a barrier to women's access to and participation in the political sphere, and to adopt inclusive approaches to their political participation;

(c) Strongly encourage political parties to remove all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against the participation of women, to develop their capacity to analyse issues from a gender perspective, and to adopt policies, as appropriate, to promote the ability of women to participate fully at all levels of decision-making within those political parties;

(d) Promote awareness and recognition of the importance of women's participation in the political process at the community, local, national and international levels;

(e) Develop mechanisms and training to encourage women to participate in the electoral process, political activities and other leadership activities, and empower women to assume public responsibilities by developing and providing appropriate tools and skills, in consultation with women;

(f) Implement appropriate measures within governmental bodies and public sector institutions to eliminate direct or indirect barriers to and enhance women's participation in all levels of political decision-making;

(g) Accelerate the implementation of strategies, as appropriate, that promote gender balance in political decision-making, and take all appropriate measures to encourage political parties to ensure that women have a fair and equal opportunity to compete for all elective public positions;

(h) Improve and broaden women's access to information and communication technology, including e-government tools, in order to enable political participation and to promote engagement in broader democratic processes, while also improving the responsiveness of these technologies to women's needs, including those of marginalized women;

(i) Investigate allegations of violence, assault or harassment of women elected officials and candidates to political office, create an environment of zero tolerance for such offences and, to ensure accountability, take all appropriate steps to prosecute those responsible;

(j) Encourage greater involvement of women who may be marginalized, including indigenous women, women with disabilities, women from rural areas and women of any ethnic, cultural or religious minority, in decision-making at all levels, and address and counter the barriers faced by marginalized women in accessing and participating in politics and decision-making at all levels;

(k) Encourage the promotion of programmes geared towards the sensitization and orientation of youth and children, in particular young women and girls, on the importance of the political process and women's participation in politics;

(l) Ensure that measures to reconcile family and professional life apply equally to women and men, bearing in mind that equitable sharing of family responsibilities between women and men and reduction of the double burden of paid and unpaid work can help to create an enabling environment for women's political participation;

(m) Promote the granting of appropriate maternity and paternity leave in order to facilitate women's political participation;

(n) Take proactive measures to address factors preventing or hindering women from participating in politics, such as violence, poverty, lack of access to quality education and health care, and gender stereotypes;

(o) Monitor and evaluate progress in the representation of women in decision-making positions;

7. *Encourages* States to ensure an expanded role for women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict and in mediation and peacebuilding efforts, as called for in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and subsequent relevant resolutions;

8. *Also encourages* States to appoint women to posts within all levels of their Governments, including, where applicable, bodies responsible for designing constitutional, electoral, political or institutional reforms;

9. *Further encourages* States to commit themselves to establishing the goal of gender balance in governmental bodies and committees, as well as in public administrative entities, and in the judiciary, including, inter alia and as appropriate, setting specific targets and implementing measures to substantially increase the number of women with a view to achieving equal representation of women and men, if necessary through positive action, in all governmental and public administration positions;

10. *Encourages* States and relevant civil society organizations to support programmes that facilitate women's participation in political and other leadership activities, including peer support and capacity development for new office holders, and to promote public/private civil society partnerships for women's empowerment;

11. *Invites* States to exchange experience and best practices on women's political participation in all phases of the political process, including in times of political change and reform;

12. *Notes with interest* the focus, inter alia, on the political participation of women, including the issues raised in the present resolution, in the work of the Human Rights Council Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and in Practice;

13. *Encourages* States to disseminate the present resolution among all relevant institutions, in particular national, regional and local authorities, as well as among political parties;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and encourages Governments to provide precise data on the political participation of women at all levels, including, where appropriate, information on the political participation of women in times of political transition.

Draft resolution IV
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 64/138 of 18 December 2009,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[1]

2. *Also welcomes* the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth[2] and forty-sixth to forty-eighth[3] sessions;

3. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions under the item on the advancement of women;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session a report on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

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[1] A/66/99.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/65/38).

[3] Ibid., *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/66/38).

Draft resolution V
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 65/191 of 21 December 2010, and also recalling the section of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women",

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[2] are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[3] the 2005 World Summit,[4] the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[5] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and taking note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions, including the latest, on access and participation of women and girls in education, training and science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-fifth session,[6]

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] See resolution 65/1.

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2011, Supplement No. 7* (E/2011/27), chap. I, sect. A.

Welcoming also the full operationalization of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on 1 January 2011,

Recognizing that the participation and contribution of civil society, in particular women's groups and other non-governmental organizations, are important to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Reaffirming also the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[7]

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and stereotypic roles of men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[8] and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS adopted at the High-level Meeting on AIDS, held on 10 June 2011,[9] in which, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women were recognized as fundamental for reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,[10]

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 on women and peace and security and resolution 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

[7] Resolution 63/239, annex.
[8] Resolution S-26/2, annex.
[9] Resolution 65/277, annex.
[10] A/65/334.

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly; [11]

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] as well as the declaration adopted on the occasion of the fifteen-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[12] and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[13] are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto[14] and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

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[11] A/66/211.

[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[14] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

6. *Welcomes* the progress made in the effective functioning of UN-Women in regard to its governance structure, as well as administration, budgeting and human resources;

7. *Reaffirms* the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

8. *Calls upon* UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and, in that regard, to place a strong and more systematic focus on support for gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks;

10. *Urges* Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions, recognizing the importance of adequate funding in enabling UN-Women to implement its strategic plan promptly and effectively, and recognizing also that the mobilization of financial resources for achieving its goals still remains a challenge;

11. *Encourages* all actors, inter alia, Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and, as applicable, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission, and welcomes in this regard the Commission's continued sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels, and the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes;

12. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

13. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys in taking an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any violence against

women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the UN-Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO to violence against women";

14. *Reiterates its call* to the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as in all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 and the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, in 2013;

15. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system systematically to incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work within their mandates, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the commitment of UN-Women to establish concrete results-based reporting mechanisms, as well as to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

16. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

17. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to encourage women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

18. *Calls upon* intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations to systematically request the inclusion of a gender perspective in reports of the Secretary-General and other inputs to intergovernmental processes;

19. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis and the provision of sex- and age-disaggregated data and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide inputs to his reports;

20. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well

as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

21. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

23. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, with recommendations for accelerating progress, and up-to-date statistics, including the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, and information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

24. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional and national levels, including by improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

25. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation.

27. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

The General Assembly decides to take note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences[1] submitted under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

[1] A/66/215.